

A FEW COMMENTS BY ARISTOTLE

SOME creatures are tame and some are wild: some are at all times tame, as man and the mule. . . .

Some, again, are peculiarly salacious, as the partridge, the barn-door cock and their congeners; others are inclined to chastity, as the whole tribe of crows, for birds of this kind indulge but rarely in sexual intercourse. . . .

The skull has sutures: one, of circular form, in the case of women; in the case of men, as a general rule, three meeting at a point. Instances have been known of a man's skull devoid of sutures altogether. . . .

The part that lies under the skull is called the face: but in the case of man only, for the term is not applied to a fish or an ox. . . . When men have large foreheads, they are slow to move; when they have small ones, they are fickle; when they have broad ones, they are apt to be distraught; when they have foreheads rounded or bulging out, they are quick-tempered. . . .

Furthermore, there is a portion of the head, whereby an animal hears, a part incapable of breathing, the ear. I say "incapable of breathing," for Alcmaeon is mistaken when he says that goats inspire through their ears. . . .

Men that have the inside or sole of the foot clumsy and not arched, that is, that walk resting on the under-surface of their feet, are prone to roguery.

ARISTOTLE, *Historia Animalium*. D'Arcy
Wentworth Thompson, transl. Oxford,
Clarendon Press, 1910.